

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, NL

SUBJ: CIVAIR--MINISTER WESTERTERP'S COMMENTS

RE UNSUCCESSFUL US-DUTCH CONSULTATIONS

1. IN NOV 19 MEETING WITH DCM AND ECONOMIC COUNSELOR TO REVIEW SECOND ROUND OF US-DUTCH CIVAIR CONSULTATIONS WEEK BEFORE IN WASHINGTON, MINISTER WESTERTERP COMMENDED DEP. ASST. SEC. WALDMANN'S FAIR AND COURTEOUS HANDLING OF THIS DIFFICULT AND SENSITIVE SUBJECT AND REGRETTED THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT. WESTERTERP ADDED THAT IN VIEW OF THE IMPASSE THAT HAD BEEN REACHED IT WAS ENTIRELY REASONABLE ON WALDMANN'S PART TO PROPOSE BREAKING OFF THE NEGOTIATIONS SINE DIE.

2. WESTERTERP EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT US SIDE HAD APPARENTLY ATTACHED LITTLE VALUE TO DUTCH PROPOSAL TO FREEZE LEVEL OF KLM OPERATIONS OVER THE NORTH ATLANTIC FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS. HE POINTED OUT THAT DESPITE PRESENT DEEPENING RECESSION, IT WAS REALISTIC, BASED ON PAST CYCLICAL EXPERIENCES, TO EXPECT A SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY RESULTING IN A NEW EXPANSION OF NORTH ATLANTIC AIRLINE TRAFFIC DURING THE THREE-YEAR PERIOD. DCM COMMENTED

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THAT THE TROUBLE WITH WESTERTERP'S PROPOSAL WAS THAT IT

OFFERED NO IMMEDIATE OR EVEN SHORT-TERM RELIEF TO PAN AMERICAN, WHOSE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS WERE DESPERATE.

3. WESTERTERP NOTED THAT THE FINAL US POSITION, REITERATED BY DEP. ASST. SECRETARY WALDMANN ON LAST DAY OF TALKS WAS THAT KLM SHOULD REDUCE ITS WEEKLY FLIGHTS FROM 25 TO 7 OR 8. WESTERTERP INDICATED THAT THIS WAS SO DRASTIC THAT THE DUTCH SIDE COULD NOT EVEN CONSIDER IT. WESTERTERP SAID THAT FOR HIS PART HE HAD MADE STRONG FINAL REQUEST THAT US TAKE NO IRREVOCABLE UNILATERAL ACTION WITHOUT FIRST CONSULTING GON. HE EXPLICITLY HOPED THAT FONMIN VAN DER STOEL WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS PROBLEM WITH THE SECRETARY NEXT MONTH BEFORE US DECIDED ON FURTHER ACTION. WESTERTERP THEN STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT SHOULD THE CAB INITIATE SUCH UNILATERAL ACTION AGAINST KLM THE GON WOULD IMMEDIATELY INVOKE ARTICLE 13 OF THE BILATERAL TREATY AND FORMALLY REQUEST ARBITRATION.

4. IN RESPONSE TO DCM'S QUERY, WESTERTERP SAID HE PERSONALLY HOPED GON WOULD NOT HAVE TO REQUEST ARBITRATION, BUT HE REITERATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY TAKEN THE NECESSARY PRELIMINARY STEPS TO HAVE RECOURSE TO IT IF THE US DECIDED ON UNILATERAL ACTION AGAINST KLM. HE STATED THAT SUCH ACTION BY A BIG ALLY AGAINST A SMALL ALLY WOULD PROVOKE AN EMOTIONAL, VEHEMENT REACTION BY THE DUTCH PUBLIC AGAINST THE US. HE ADDED THAT THE DUTCH INTERPRETATION OF THE TREATY WAS THAT ONE SIGNATORY COULD NOT REFUSE A REQUEST FOR ARBITRATION BY THE SIGNATORY.

5. WESTERTERP CLARIFIED THAT HE HAD MADE THE PUBLIC REMARKS REPORTED IN THE HAGUE 5599 IMMEDIATELY UPON HIS RETURN TO THE NETHERLANDS FROM WASHINGTON NOV 15, AND HAD THEN GONE INTO REPORT TO THE WEEKLY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING. THE LATTER HAD FULLY APPROVED THE LINE HE HAD TAKEN IN WASHINGTON, THE TENOR OF HIS PUBLIC REMARKS, AS WELL AS WESTERTERP'S DESIRE TO DAMP DOWN PUBLIC CONTROVERSY. IN THIS CONNECTION HE SAID HE WOULD PROBABLY REMOVE FROM HIS REPORT TO PARLIAMENT THE SPECIFICS OF THE US DEMAND FOR A SUBSTANTIAL CURTAIL-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENT OF KLM FLIGHTS ACROSS THE NORTH ATLANTIC. EMBASSY OFFICERS ENCOURAGED HIM TO DO SO, AND SAID THAT THE BASIC US-DUTCH INTEREST WOULD NOT BE SERVED BY ADDING ANY UNNECESSARY FUEL TO THE FLAMES. WESTERTERP AGREED BUT EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF LEAKS TO THE PRESS, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO THE SEVERITY OF THE US DEMANDS. GOULD

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